



Foundation

Submitted by Elaine Sawtell

Garrett Dyer reminded us that the foundation for the disaster dog and handler doesn't start with teaching your dog to bark on command. It starts in your mind.

Are You Willing to Select a Dog Capable of the Job?

Garrett observed that every service dog (police patrol, narcotics, bomb, therapy, guide dog, assistance dog) is required to meet certain criteria before being considered for training. The one exception is search work, where the thinking has been any family dog is a candidate.

The irony is that disaster search is the most demanding job we can ask of a dog. He must maintain his concentration on his job in chaotic situations amidst every form of distraction without the support of his handler at the end of the leash. To ask a dog to do this task that is not up to it physically, mentally or emotionally is not fair to the dog or the victim.

Are You Willing to Remember that your Search Dog is First and Foremost a Working Dog, a Tool to Save Lives, and Not a Family Pet?

This doesn't mean you won't develop a close relationship with your working dog. There is no greater bond than that between a handler and a service dog.

Are you Willing to Isolate Your Dog in his Formative Training and Carefully Build and Channel his Drive to Search for People?

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Seminar Success!

Submitted by Deborah Goodman

Did we learn a lot and have a good time or what?!? There is nothing like a good seminar to get one "fired up" and ready to "work in drive"! I personally found the lecture on "Understanding Canine Drives" to be extremely helpful. Quite often you can read about this in a book and never quite grasp the meaning. Garrett was able to define this in a way that was clear and easy to understand for the beginner (me)! And I found his discussion about "taking the human blinders off" to



be gentle, but frank and honest. If I learned anything it was to be honest with myself when evaluating or having an expert evaluate my dog to determine if it is suitable for Disaster Search. I thought he made a very good point that not every dog is "raising it's paw" to do this type of work. Let's face it, we as humans are given a gift to do different types of work. Not everyone can be a firefighter or a football player. No matter how much we want to. Thus not every dog is suited to complete this work. They may be able to bark, or do the agility equipment, but when it comes to the BIG PICTURE, they don't have the calling and it's our job as their handler to acknowledge that. That doesn't mean we can't do Disaster Search, we just can't do it with the present dog. This dog may be more suited for Wilderness Search or Agility etc. And it's up to the handler to be honest and fair to the dog and to the team.

I also loved the information on the role of the handler in the search process.

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Otch Haven Farms Red Eagle Scout, UDT, JH, WC

May 19, 1986 - April 15, 2000, Owned by Linda Hoffert

Submitted by Elaine Sawtell

CD - Dog World award, four first placements

CDX - All first place, one High in Trial

UD - Earned in four shows, two first placements

TD - Passed first test

JH - Earned in four straight tests with 9.5 average

WC - Earned on test

OTCH - Obtained in one year with limited showing. Five high in trails, six high combined

GRCA Obedience Hall of Fame Member

Certified Therapy Dog

Temperament - exuberant, very willing to please, fanatic retriever, good with children and the elderly, somewhat soft.

Scout's record speaks for itself. But the relationship Scout and Linda had is hard to put into words. How do you describe the feeling of having a dog you just want to be with, a dog you can communicate with without words, a dog who is willing to do whatever you ask, a dog who has been there through milestones in your life?

Scout was an anniversary present from Harry 14 years ago. Linda drove from a 4th of July celebration at the lake to St. Louis to pick up her puppy.

Their son, Derek, was 12 years old in 1986. Scout was there as he grew up and became an Eagle Scout. Next week Derek graduates from college and nursing school.

Scout passes on his abilities in many ways. His puppies have been and continue to be successful as companions and in obedience, agility, field work, narcotics detection, therapy and search work.

Always willing, he could have earned more "titles". Titles are words on paper. They are impressive and important at times.

But at times like this, we think more of a work like "bond". Webster's defines it as, "to connect... a binding or uniting force."

It was a privilege to know Scout. It was a joy to see Scout and Linda together. As time passes, may the pain of losing him be replaced by all the wonderful memories of the bond they shared.

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watching Garrett I learned some "cool moves" that I can't wait to put into practice! I for one learned I need to move the toy more than I move myself! (No wonder I get so tired.) I also learned that I should loosen up on the lid when inside the bark barrel. Letting the dog think he is gaining access for his barks or scratches motivates him and increases his intensity. What a concept! I also want to personally say thank you for everyone's help. Many hands make a heavy load lighter and Nadine's cookies kept us going!



Canine
Bulletin



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Lincoln Fire Department
Administration
1801 'Q' Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 441-7363

Fax: (402) 441-7098

E-Mail: fire@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Interent: <http://interlinc>.

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Are you Willing to Always consider the Principle of Passive Training?

Remember, everything you do with your dog for the entire time it is in your possession is training; that is, whether you are in company with your dog or it is in its kennel or confinement area, away from you, alone or with other animals. (January 1999 newspaper, What is Training Your Dog?)

Are you Willing to Improve Your Timing and Training Skill (and your physical condition, if necessary) to mold your dog and Yourself into a Team that can Find Trapped People, with no excuses?

Yes, Garrett made us think.

(More food for thought is in the book Schutzund Obedience, Training in Drive, by Sheila Booth, which has been excerpted in the previous editions of the newsletter.)

NE-TF1 Deployable Canine Teams

Submitted by John Huff

As of May 1, 2000, NE-TF1 canine teams will be deployed in the following order:

Max/McAlister (Type I) (Cadaver)
Louie/Rising (Type I) (Cadaver)
Zima/Barger (Type II)
Ren/Jones (Category 2)
Ditto/Sawtell (Category 2) (Cadaver)

**Submission of Items
for the "Canine Bulletin"...**

Please mail submissions to:
Julie Marget
Lincoln Fire Department
1801 'Q' Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

E-mail:
jmarget@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Fax: 441-7098

Address/Phone # Changes
Contact: Julie or Sandy @ LFD Fire
Administration (402) 441-7363

